(d) if not, by when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) M/s. Rites completed necessary data collection and technical evaluations during last summer and are now expected to submit the report of the Second Phase of the Feasibility Study by the end of December 1996.

Termination of membership of Telephone Advisory Committee Members

*398. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have terminated memberships of certain Telephone Advisory Committee Members (TACMs) during the last five years till 1996 abruptly; if so, the Circle/field unit-wise details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) whether said Members made representations to Government against said terminations; if so, the detials thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon, case-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to restore memberships of those Members where allegations against them found baseless/unsubstantiated; if so, by when; and

(e) whether Government also propose to have said terminations investigated; if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The memberships of Shri Abhay Awasthi of Allahabad TAC, Shri Ernest Paul of Madras TAC and Shri Om Bharuka of Dibrugarh TAC were terminated before their respectvie terms expired, due to serious complaints against them.

(b) Shri Om Bharuka made representations against termination of his membership. He stated in his representation that the charges of misbehaviour, physical assault etc. levelled against him were not true. The other two TAC members made no such representations.

(c) The CGM Assam Telecom Circle was asked to make a thorough enquiry on the representation of Shri Bharuka. The enquiry established the charged levelled against Shri Bharuka.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No, Sir, in view of reply at (b) and (c) above.

Indians to be rendered stateless in Hongkong

*399. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians likely to be rendered Stateless in Hongkong after its transfer to China;

(b) whether Government intend to take up the matter with Chinese authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) (i) According to the statistics released by the Immigration Department in Hong Kong, the number of persons of Indian origin likely to be faced with statelessness at some, as yet indeterminate, future date is 3,190. These persons are defined as permanent residents of Hong Kong of Indian origin who hold British Dependent Territories Citizens (BDTC) or British National Overseas BN(O) passports but do not have any other nationality.

(ii) When Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997, those persons who can show proof of seven years of continuous residence in Hong Kong would be entitled to permanent identity cards providing them with the right of abode in Hong Kong. Most British Dependent Territories Citizens (BDTC) or British National Overseas BN(O) passport holders are expected to qualify.

(iii) According to British Government Policy the first two generations of offspring of BDTC and BN(O) passport holders, born after 1997, will be given the status of British Overseas Citizens (BOC). This would entitle them to British consular protection but not the right of abode in the United Kingdom. However, the third generation will not be granted this status and might therefore be rendered "Stateless" unless they have acquired citizenship of China or another country by then.

(iv) Government have raised this matter with the British and Chinese Governments. It has been the consistent position of the Government of India that the British Government has basic responsibility towards BDTC and BN(O) passport holders and that it should take the necessary steps to safeguard the status of these persons as British citizens. The British government have assured Hong Kong residents that they would consider it an obligation on any future government to treat with considerable and particular sympathy the case for admission to the United Kingdom of any British national who, against all present expectation, came under pressure to leave Hong Kong. Senior Chinese officials have also, on several occasions, stated that this group of persons did have the options of applying for Chinese citizenship.

High defence expenditure of Pakistan

*400. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been spending a high percentage of their GDP on defence year after year;

(b) if so, the percentage of respective GDP spent on defence by India and Pakistan during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether steps were taken by Government to invite attention of the UN to India's security concerns arising from the high level of defence expenditure by Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the result thereof and responses thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The percentage of GDP spent by Pakistan on its Defence increased reportedly from 6.88 percent in 1994-95, to 6.99 percent of GDP in 1996-97.

(b) Percentage of GDP reportedly spent by India and Pakistan respectively, on defence, is as under:

Year	India	Pakistan
1994-95	2.53	6.88
1995-96	2.39	6.88
1996-97	—	6.99

(Source: Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi)

(c) and (d) The United Nations do not provide a forum in which to reflect concerns on the high level of defence expenditure being incurred by a neighbouring country. Our concern is, however, voiced suitably at other forums, whenever there is an appropriate occasion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Encroachments on Defence lands

2681. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Defence lands in India as on 1.12.1996;

(b) out of this, the area which is well protected:

(c) the total area of Defence lands on which there is encroachment; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect Defence lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Total area of Defence lands is 21.52 lakhs acres